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South Carolina Librarian v.17 n.2 Spring/1973

Abstract

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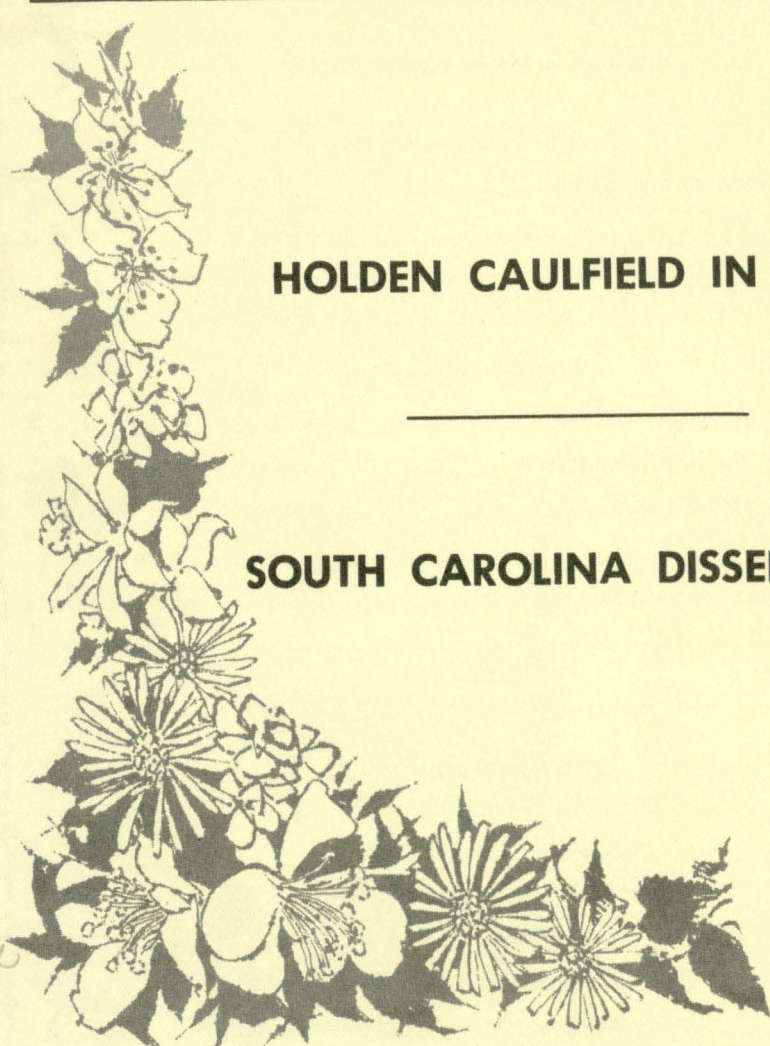
The South Carolina **LIBRARIAN**

Vol. 17, No. 2

Spring 1973

HOLDEN CAULFIELD IN S. C.

SOUTH CAROLINA DISSERTATIONS



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The South Carolina **LIBRARIAN**

VOLUME 17, NO. 2

SPRING, 1973

Editor Lester E. Duncan
University of South Carolina Libraries

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Deadline for the Fall 1973 Issue is

August 15, 1973

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FROM THE SCLA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of SCLA met on Aug. 26 and December 2, 1972 at 10:30 A.M. at the State Library. In its actions, the Committee:

—Heard a report from Mr. Kenneth Toombs on the plans for the 1972 SCLA Fall Meeting.

—Accepted the treasurer's report which noted that membership is up over last year.

—Discussed the SELA convention and the work in progress on the SELA Survey scheduled for completion in two years.

—Heard a report from Bill Summers, Chairman of the Planning Committee, in which he reported that the ALA is not planning to celebrate their 100th Anniversary in relationship to the U. S. Bicentennial but may publish a history of ALA. The Planning Committee suggested the following; (1) An ad hoc committee be appointed to begin work immediately on exploring the feasibility of inviting the S. C. Association of School Librarians, presently on a trial basis with the S. C. Education Association, to transfer its organization affiliations to SCLA; (2) that the Constitution and By-laws Committee

revise the section governing the election of ALA Councilor of SCLA; (3) that the S. C. Graduate Library School Survey be enlarged to include the necessary information for a survey on a Goals and Objectives Statement for SCLA; (4) that an ad hoc committee be appointed to explore the development and drafting of a state-wide interlibrary loan code; (5) that a Legislative Policy Statement be developed as other state associations have done. All of the above were accepted by the Executive Committee and the necessary action was taken to look into these matters.

—Received a report from Colonel Hildard stating the SCLA was in good financial shape with a total of 821 members compared to last year's total of 799.

—Heard reports from the section chairmen on the continuing activities of their sections.

—Received an announcement from Mr. Nolen that arrangements had been made to hold the 1973 SCLA Convention at Myrtle Beach on October 11-13.

—Voted to advance JMRT \$100.00 for the publication of the Literary Map, the amount to be repaid if such a sum is made from the project.

SCLA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The South Carolina Library Association held its first Annual Meeting on October 13, 1973 at Capstone House, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina.

Mr. J. Frank Nolen, President of the South Carolina Library Association, welcomed over 500 SCLA members and guests giving a brief report on the work done by the association during the year. Mr. Nolen recognized Mr. Porter Kellam, President of the Southeastern Library Association, who brought greetings from the SELA.

The program was then turned over to Mr. Kenneth E. Toombs, Director of Libraries, University of South Carolina, who was chairman of the program committee

Miss Estellene P. Walker, Librarian, South Carolina State Library, introduced the morning speaker, Dr. Mary Edna Anders, Head, Basic Data Branch, Georgia Tech. Dr. Anders' topic was The South-eastern States Cooperative Survey. This was the first formal presentation of the survey. Dr. Anders briefly told about the 1946 survey and pointed out that the time is propitious for a new survey that will give the total library resources available and will enable librarians to outline the needs of the libraries and assign priorities to these needs. The survey will accelerate growth and development of library resources by indicating trends, obstacles, relative educational, social, and economic

growth, giving a data basis for plans, recommending approaches to cooperation, and formulating objectives and priorities.

SELA, TVA, State Library Associations, and State Libraries are cooperating to make the survey possible. Questionnaires should be sent to the individual libraries. Dr. Anders pointed out that a strong survey depends on each librarian's input and reaction to the questionnaires.

Mrs. Porter Kellam, President of SELA, in brief remarks, mentioned the closer interaction of SELA and the State Library Associations and said that the great accomplishment is the Cooperative Survey.

Dr. Franklin Ashley, Poet in Residence, South Carolina Arts Commission, was the luncheon speaker. His amusing topic was Up Against the Good Old Boys. Dr. Ashley is a local author and based his talk

on excerpts from some of his recent short stories with local settings.

After the luncheon, the sectional meetings were held. The Public Library Section's program was Publicity in the Public Library with Ronald Copsey from Leslie Advertising Agency as speaker. The College Library Section's program was presented by Mr. Robert J. Bell, Assistant Professor, College of Librarianship, University of South Carolina. His topic was Fine Printing and the Grabhorn Press. The School Library Section's program featured Mrs. Esma Gandy, Mrs. Ednee Reel, and Mrs. Betty Jean Aston, who presented a program on the school libraries: elementary, junior high school, and senior high school. The Special Library Section had a program presented by Miss Margaret L. Brooks, Chief in Reference, National Medical Audio Visual Center, Atlanta, Georgia.

Davy-Jo Ridge Appointed Assistant Director At USC

Ms. Davy-Jo S. Ridge has been appointed Assistant Director for Reference Services at the University of South Carolina. Formerly head of Reference at the McKissick Memorial Library, she has assumed responsibility of reference services at all campus libraries with the exception of the Under-

graduate Library which is soon to be phased out as the new Central Research Library nears completion. Ms. Ridge's responsibilities also include the Rare Book Collection. Ms. Lynn Barron has been appointed Acting Head of McKissick Reference.

SOUTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
 Reconciled With Cash Balances
 Year Ended December 31, 1972

| | <i>RECEIPTS</i> | <i>Budget</i> | <i>Actual</i> |
|---|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <i>Membership Dues:</i> | | | |
| Personal | | \$3500.00 | \$3695.00 |
| Institutional | | 450.00 | 545.00 |
| Life | | - 0 - | 100.00 |
| Total | | \$3950.00 | \$4340.00 |
| S. C. Librarian — Subscriptions and Ads | | 75.00 | 205.50 |
| Interest on Savings | | - 0 - | 143.73 |
| From Special Publication Project | | - 0 - | 151.04 |
| Total Receipts | | \$4025.00 | \$4840.27 |
| | <i>DISBURSEMENTS</i> | | |
| Association Memberships | | \$ 188.00 | \$ 178.00 |
| Officers' Expenses, etc.: | | | |
| President | | 100.00 | 48.73 |
| Vice-President | | 25.00 | - 0 - |
| Treasurer | | 600.00 | 659.40 |
| Secretary | | 50.00 | 29.62 |
| Secretarial Expense | | 100.00 | 10.00 |
| Executive Board Travel | | 400.00 | 394.40 |
| ALA Councilor | | 600.00 | 486.03 |
| ALA Coordinator | | 25.00 | 39.03 |
| SELA Representative | | 200.00 | 186.30 |
| Total | | \$2100.00 | \$1853.51 |
| <i>Sections:</i> | | | |
| College & University, Public, School, Trustee & Junior Members Round Table | | \$ 250.00 | - 0 - |
| Special | | 50.00 | 22.40 |
| Total | | \$ 300.00 | \$ 22.40 |
| <i>Committees:</i> | | | |
| Recruiting and Planning | | \$ 10.00 | - 0 - |
| Publication — S. C. Librarian | | 1700.00 | \$1886.68 |
| Total | | \$1710.00 | \$1886.68 |
| <i>Other</i> | | | |
| SELA Regional Library Survey | | \$ 500.00 | \$ 500.00 |
| Convention Expense of Prior Year | | 184.08 | 184.08 |
| Miscellaneous | | 50.00 | 12.80 |
| Total | | \$ 734.08 | \$ 696.88 |
| Total Disbursements | | \$5032.08 | \$4637.47 |
| Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements | | (\$1007.08) | \$ 202.80 |
| Add — 1973 Income Received in 1972: | | | |
| Dues | | \$ 40.00 | |
| S. C. Librarian Ads | | 120.00 | 160.00 |
| Cash Balance — December 31, 1971 | | | \$5588.56 |
| Cash Balance — December 31, 1972: | | | |
| Citizens and Southern National Bank | | \$3081.43 | |
| First Federal Savings & Loan Association | | 2869.93 | \$5951.36 |

SOUTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
Proposed Budget 1973

INCOME

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Membership Dues</i> | |
| Personal — 700 @ \$5.00 | \$3,500.00 |
| Institutional — 50 @ \$10.00 | 500.00 |
| Income from S. C. LIBRARIAN | 250.00 |
| Publication Project | - 0 - |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$4,250.00 |

EXPENDITURES

| | |
|---|------------|
| <i>Memberships</i> | |
| SELA | \$ 25.00 |
| ALA | 153.00 |
| Freedom to Read Foundation | 10.00 |
| <i>Expenses of Officers</i> | |
| President | 100.00 |
| Vice-President | 250.00 |
| Treasurer | 600.00 |
| Secretary | 50.00 |
| Secretarial expenses for Officers | 100.00 |
| <i>Others</i> | |
| Travel | 600.00 |
| ALA Councilor | 600.00 |
| ALA Coordinator | 500.00 |
| ALA Representative | 150.00 |
| <i>Sections</i> | |
| College and University | |
| Public | |
| School | 300.00 |
| Special | |
| Trustee | |
| Junior Members Round Table | |
| <i>Committees of the Association</i> | |
| Recruiting | - 0 - |
| Planning | 50.00 |
| Handbook Revision | - 0 - |
| S. C. LIBRARIAN | 1,700.00 |
| <i>Miscellaneous</i> | 100.00 |
| SELA Regional Library Survey | 500.00 |
| (1973 proportionate share for SCLA) | |
| Publications Project "Literary Map" | 100.00 |
| Congressional Dinners | 42.00 |
| | \$5,938.00 |

Obiter Dictum or A Day in the Life of an Academic Librarian

"Yes, the New York Times Index is unreasonably slow in coming. Have you tried the Reader's Guide?" "Must you have all five magazines now? We are closing in five minutes." "No, you cannot have these books renewed a second time — Someone else may need them." "I am sorry, we do not lend directly to students of other institutions." (Aside) "How long would we be in business if we did?"

Check windows, flash lights, put away encyclopedias, remove Coca Cola cups and candy papers; listen for clogs coming down the stairs.

As the weary librarian turns the key in the door, the old refrain pops into her head — "This old library, she ain't what she used to be."

Why this stubborn persistence — long hours, low pay, and the privilege of being a second-class citizen on a college campus?

Just doing what comes naturally.

Anna Cooper

(North Carolina Libraries)

No, it is not. In the 'good old days', An afternoon at the desk meant a quiet time to catch up on odd jobs, revise catalog cards, and, best of all, sneak in a little leisure reading. Now, it is busy, busy all the time — not just the night before exams or a test.

In serious moments, we try to sort out the reasons. The Registrar tells us the kids are smarter. We know they are brash and sophisticated; work only when they feel like it, but are more familiar with library materials than formerly.

They say the faculty is cracking down. All of these reasons are valid, and go to make up the picture of the weary librarian trying to cope with today's students.

HOLDEN CAULFIELD IS ALIVE AND UNWELL IN SOUTH CAROLINA

G. MELVIN HIPPS
Furman University

Over two decades ago, J. D. Salinger wrote a little novel called *The Catcher in the Rye*. In the years since its publication, few books have been the subject of such continuous and bitter controversy as this one has been. Although Holden Caulfield (the adolescent protagonist in the novel) would now be well past thirty if he were a real person, he has not exactly been embraced by the "over-thirty establishment."

While most of the country exhausted the arguments over this novel years ago, the would-be censors in South Carolina seem to have discovered the saga of Holden Caulfield just recently. Even though I think the novel has merit, I suspect that the censors are responsible for making it the minor classic it has become. The notoriety of the book has made it a delectable bit of forbidden fruit. At least it was considered delectable several years ago. I am not sure that young people would consider it very daring anymore. Part of the irony in the current flap over this book is that most adolescents, even if they don't consider the novel itself passe, certainly consider the controversy over it passe.

Opinions concerning the literary quality of this novel vary widely. Some critics feel that it is exaggerated and tedious. Others view it as a humorously poignant and accurate portrayal of the trauma of adolescence. Whatever the literary merits or shortcomings of the novel may be, it is extraordinarily difficult for me to understand the charge that it is immoral or obscene. Admittedly, Holden's language contains many traditionally taboo words; the serious reader, however, views these words as an essential part of the portrayal of the character. One may or may not like the character; but without his language, he is no character at all.

Whatever flaws there may be in Holden's character, he cannot be called immoral.

Immature, perhaps; ill, perhaps; but not immoral. He has an unyielding aversion to hypocrisy, which he calls "phoniness." One of his missions in life is to protect children, especially his younger sister, Phoebe, from the ugliness and inhumanity in the world. He erases dirty words from bathroom walls so that younger children won't see them. Again, the serious reader (and I assume we are all teaching our students to become serious readers) sees the irony involved in Holden's using the very words he is trying to keep little children from seeing. But Holden feels that although his own life has already been ruined, he might be able to save younger children from having their lives ruined. This seems to me a rather high-minded goal for an adolescent.

What the censors of *The Catcher in the Rye* seem to imply is that the language of the novel will corrupt young readers, that they will be influenced to imitate Holden's speech. Although Holden is a sympathetic character and perhaps at times even an admirable one, I doubt that any stable adolescent would wish to be like him. Whatever else one might say of him, he is obviously a very unhappy and confused person. Holden has become an arche-type of the twentieth century anti-hero in literature. As such, he exemplifies the perplexing conflicts of life in the twentieth century. We may be sympathetic with all the Holdens we know, and we may mourn for that part of ourselves that is like Holden. But we aren't likely to adopt him as a model for our lives. Saying that one might be influenced to adopt Holden's language if he reads *The Catcher in the Rye* is like saying that one who reads *Macbeth* will go out and kill everyone who stands between him and what he wants or that one who reads *Julius Caesar* will be moved to assassinate ambitious political leaders. Rather than being tempted to copy Holden's speech, adolescents just might be struck by the tiresome repetitiveness of his vocabulary, however accu-

rate it might be. Furthermore, my own experience suggests that people who talk like Holden Caulfield did not derive their vocabularies from novels. If a serious study of the novel could influence students' values and actions in any way, I would like to think the influence would manifest itself in a concern for the pain, the suffering, and the shortcomings of fellow human beings.

I will admit that *The Catcher in the Rye* is an obscene book if one will agree with my definition of the word "obscene." For my part, obscenity is anything that diminishes the worth of the human being and destroys his spirit. Consequently, violence is obscene; sex without the mutual regard for the welfare of those involved is obscene; dishonesty is obscene; greed is obscene. The dehumanizing actions of some of Holden's teachers and fellow students are obscene; the indifference of Holden's parents toward him is obscene; all the conditions of his life that cause him to be lonely, frustrated, and alienated are obscene. In the face of all these obscenities, it is difficult for me to become overwrought about his language.

My semi-sympathetic treatment of this novel notwithstanding, I am not advocating that the book be taught in the schools.

Valuable Black Historical Document Found at The College of Charleston

A ledger containing minutes of one of the oldest Black benevolent societies in the country has been added to the rare book collection.

The volume was discovered during the restoration of an ante-bellum dwelling recently acquired by the College. It contains the minutes of the Brown Fellowship Society (later the Century Fellowship Society) from 1896-1911.

The Society was organized in 1790 as a mutual benefit burial association. The minutes include numerous references to

My concern is that it not be excluded from the curriculum for the wrong reasons and without due regard for its serious purpose. Although I have discussed only one controversial novel in detail, similar observations could be made concerning many of the books that are currently under fire in the schools. I wish that the present controversy over this book and others like it could be dismissed as the unenlightened ravings of a small minority. I feel, however, that the critics of the literature curriculum represent a much more serious threat.

In the last few years, a determined effort has been made all over the state to devise a more interesting, relevant, and up-to-date curriculum in literature. But just as curricular reforms came late to our state, so did the concerted attempts at censorship. Now it seems to me that the censors are redoubling their efforts to force a return to the out-of-date, innocuous, but "safe" anthology, no matter how dull, inane, and inconsequential it might be.

Perhaps it is time for teachers, librarians, and administrators to redouble their efforts to help their fellow citizens to accept and maybe even welcome the "coming of age" of Holden Caulfield.

burials in the Society cemetery and repair made on the Society hall.

A Society rule book published in 1844 was found inside the ledger. It states that the society was formed by "free brown men who were natives of Charleston . . . to promote the welfare and happiness of one another." Many of the early members were wealthy free Blacks and Indians who owned slaves themselves.

The library has received inquiries concerning the minutes from *Jet* Magazine and the Smithsonian Institution.

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Treacy, Mildred Freeman.

Nathanael Greene and the Southern campaign, August, 1780-April, 1781

University of Utah, 1962 M. \$2.75
No. 62-5721 X. \$8.80

Tucker, Robert Cinnamond.

James Henry Hammond, South Carolinian

University of North Carolina,
1958 M. \$6.35
L. C. Card No. Mic 59-59 X. \$22.20

Van Osdell, John Garrett, Jr.

Cotton mills, labor and the Southern mind: 1880-1930

Tulane University, 1966 M. \$3.85
No. 67-3878 X. \$13.50

Vaughn, William Preston.

The sectional conflict in Southern public education: 1865-1876

Ohio State University, 1961 M. \$4.05
Order No. 61-5130 X. \$14.20

Wakelyn, Jon Louis.

William Gilmore Simms: the artist as public man, a political odyssey, 1830-1860
Rice University, 1966 M. \$3.65
No. 66-10,392 X. \$12.85

Walsh, Walter Richard.

Charleston's sons of liberty: a study of the mechanics, 1760-1785
University of South Carolina, 1954
Public No. 8945
Mic A54-2037 \$2.65

Weir, Robert McColloch.

"Liberty and property, and no stamps": South Carolina and the Stamp Act crisis
Western Reserve University, 1966 M. \$6.95
No. 67-4626 X. \$24.75

Wikramanayake, Ivy Marina.

The free Negro in ante-bellum South Carolina
University of Wisconsin, 1966 M. \$3.60
No. 66-9985 X. \$12.60

LIBRARY SURVEY BEGINS IN S. C.

The largest South Carolina library survey in 26 years had its beginnings recently at a special meeting in Columbia, South Carolina.

Librarians from public, college, school, industry, military, technical education and institutional libraries created the South Carolina Library Association's Advisory Committee for participation in the Southeastern States Cooperative Survey, a major study of library resources in a nine-state area.

"A two year program, the survey will gather statistical data and attempt to identify areas where libraries have not only progressed and improved, but also where

Wild, Philip Frederick.

South Carolina Politics: 1815-1833.
University of Pennsylvania, 1949 M. \$8.33
Publ. No. 3514. 666 p. X. .10/page

Williams, Jack Kenny.

Crime and punishment in South Carolina, 1790-1860.
Emory University, 1953 M. \$4.55
L. C. Card No. Mic 58-5192 X. \$15.20

Williamson, Joel Randolph.

The Negro in South Carolina during reconstruction, 1861-1877
University of California at Berkeley, 1964 M. \$7.70
No. 64-9108 X. \$27.45

Zahniser, Marvin Ralph.

The public career of Charles Coatsworth Pinckney.
University of California at Santa Barbara, 1963 M. \$5.20
No. 66-5969 X. \$18.45

they have not kept pace with the growth and change of the dynamic southeast," said Miss Estellene P. Walker, state librarian and chairman for the entire survey.

Much of the library progress made in South Carolina during recent years was the result of recommendations made following a similar regional survey taken immediately after World War II.

Major objectives of the current survey in South Carolina are: (1) to assess the progress of state-wide library development during the past 25 years; (2) to give a better understanding of the needs which must be met in the coming years and; (3) to compile data needed for establishing and achieving specific goals.

"One of the major goals for the future is to establish greater interlibrary cooperation between all kinds of libraries," said Miss Walker. "The individual library patron can look forward to the day when by visiting one library, the resources of

nearly all major libraries will be available to him locally," she added.

The entire survey will be conducted under the sponsorship of the Southeastern Library Association in cooperation with state library associations and state libraries.

BOOK SALES, LIBRARY USAGE UP

BY WALTER PUTNAM

Columbia Record Staff Writer

People are reading more these days, both in Columbia and nationwide.

At least that's what several factors including rising book sales and increased use of libraries, indicate.

The American booksellers Association reports a 10 per cent rise in sales since last year.

And although the exact percentage of increase in book sales in the Columbia area is not known, local store owners are smiling at the jump. With the Christmas rush they are running out of copies of some best sellers.

Libraries in Columbia say more and more people are checking out books and using reference services.

Reasons for the increase vary. One bookseller said people are more selective in their television viewing.

"There is just more leisure time. People enjoy reading to fill their time, and they enjoy reading about things that fill their time," says Carol Cook of the Richland County Public Library.

More books on hobbies and crafts are being read. Readers are interested in art, cookbooks and antiques. Sports books are very popular, too, the booksellers say.

One said there is a "searching for spiritual stability." Eastern religions and the occult, even witchcraft and satanism, have attracted large reading audience.

"Jonathan Livingston Seagull," a best-seller fantasy of spiritual import, is leading the pack in Columbia sales. Another popular book that the stores have trouble keeping stocked is "I'm O.K., You're O.K.,"

which explains modern psychiatry and human behavior in layman's terms.

Books by local authors are perennial favorites. Sales of "Deliverance" by James Dickey, poet-in-residence at the University of South Carolina, soared again after the movie was released.

Columbia-born writer William Price Fox is another favorite. So is George Garret, USC's resident writer whose "Death of the Fox" hit the bestseller list.

State History

Books about South Carolina's history sell well, the booksellers say. Bookstores and libraries report many requests for "A Piece of the Foxes Hide," a tale of a South Carolina murder in the 1920's by Katherine Boling. Also popular is Eugene B. Sloan's "Scenic South Carolina."

Many people are interested in "getting back to the simple life," reports Linda Reed of Walden Bookstore. And her counterparts agree that more and more copies are being sold of the "Foxfire Book," which details "folkliving." Macrame, leather crafts, sewing, and organic gardening attract great interest, also.

Television may contribute more than "turning people off." Requests for classics and for biographies of historical personages have increased along with television specials dealing with Henry VIII and serials based on famous novels. And there are requests for books dealing with characters in Soap Operas.

Reading Material

People are reading for both entertainment and self-improvement, the booksellers and librarians say mysteries and popular

fiction abounds as always but along the lines of self-improvement the increase is most noticeable.

A great number of technical books are sold, suggesting more than a surface interest in the world's increasing complexity. "They are more curious about what's going on around them," Miss Reed said.

She commented that the children's books bought these days are not as frivolous as in the past. "They have messages the child can understand," she added.

"FOOTNOTES"

The new graduate library school at the University of South Carolina opened its doors to fifty students. Both faculty and students enjoyed a three day workshop at Lake Kanuga, N. C., early in September in preparation for the year's work.

At the College of Charleston:

The Xerox Microprinter is available for use by the faculty, administrative staff, and students of the college. At a cost of 10¢ per page, positive copies of the microfilm materials are made. Since the library is acquiring 30 years microfilm backfiles of over 1000 periodicals, the Microprinter will be an especially useful facility.

The *Robert Scott Small Library Student Handbook* has recently been completed. The manual discusses basic library skills and services through programmed instruction and annotated bibliography of significant reference works.

An introductory course in the use of the library and library materials has recently been approved by the faculty of the College as a requirement for entering Freshmen beginning with the Fall Semester 1973. Librarians on the staff will prepare and teach all sections of the course which will be offered to Freshmen both Fall and Spring Semesters.

Renovation work is underway at the former Towell Library. The building is being made into a learning resources center. It will contain audio-visual equipment and

Young people are reading more because "they are searching for answers," said Francis Hutto, owner of the Capitol Newsstand.

"There is an increase in the serious use of books in the public libraries," state librarian Esterlene Walker said.

She said the S. C. State Library had answered 3,109 reference questions during the past year. And, she added, total circulation in the state's libraries during 1971-72 was 6.1 million compared to 5.8 million in 1970-71.

language laboratory facilities. Work began in September and is scheduled for completion in March. The building served as the college library until the Robert Scott Small Library opened this spring.

Also, Joan Schmelzle of the College of Charleston reports that the Robert Scott Small Library has received local and national publicity from the Xerox Corporation for extensive microfilm holdings and for the first installation of the microfilm cartridge system.

A \$70,000 order for microfilms has been placed with Xerox. New subscriptions and backfiles included in the order bring the library's periodical holdings up to 1000, the recommended minimum.

The microfilm cartridge system was developed to provide for easier reading and the preservation of films. The college is the first institution in the nation to have the system installed.

The annual Checklist of South Carolina State Publications has been compiled and distributed by The State Library, according to Estellene P. Walker, state librarian.

"Over 800 publications are issued annually by agencies of State government to keep the public informed on many important subjects," said Miss Walker. "To make these publications readily available, we provide this Checklist to all libraries in South Carolina," she added.

Copies of the Checklist are sent to all state libraries throughout the country as well as to the Library of Congress, major out-of-state research libraries and several overseas libraries.

These lists are open to the public and may be consulted in library reference departments. Publications listed are available from The State Library on interlibrary loan to public and college libraries. Many of the publications may be purchased directly from the issuing agency.

Members of the South Carolina JMRT voted on officers for 1973 at the annual business meeting of the South Carolina Library Association held on October 13. Elected to serve as Vice-Chairman and Chairman-Elect was James B. Johnson, Jr., Consultant, Special Programs, South Carolina State Library. Elected to serve as Secretary-Treasurer was Ilene Nelson, Librarian, Coastal Carolina Regional Cam-

pus, University of South Carolina. Barry Baker, Head of the Order Department, McKissick Library, University of South Carolina, assumed the duties of Chairman at the meeting.

Miss Estellene P. Walker, South Carolina state librarian, has been named to *Who's Who in America*. The listing of Miss Walker, the only woman among the 41 South Carolinians newly listed, was made in the thirty-seventh edition of *Who's Who*, 1972-73.

The South Carolina Library Association will hold its biennial convention at the Ocean Forest Hotel in Myrtle Beach on October 11-13, 1973. Further details will be announced in the coming months. Plan now to attend as this is expected to be the largest and best ever. Some excellent speakers are being lined up for the meeting.

A BOOKMAN'S JOURNAL

By THOMAS L. JOHNSON

Miss Welty's Latest Prize

This winter Miss Eudora Welty was selected as one of the first three authors to receive the University of South Carolina Award for Distinction in Literature (the other two being Allen Tate and Robert Penn Warren). Sponsored by the Lectures Committee of the University Union and presented on behalf of the student body, the award was presented to these authors "in recognition of their outstanding contributions to American letters." On the medal given to each recipient is a copy of the University seal and these words: "The University of South Carolina Award for Distinction in Literature, Given by the Students, March 6, 1973."

This recognition has come within a year of the publication of Miss Welty's most recent novel, *The Optimist's Daughter* (New York: Random House, 1972). In this novel she has demonstrated once again the unique power of fiction to chart the

deep voyages of the human spirit and to provide an effective means of perceiving and judging the human condition.

The Optimist's Daughter is concerned with the mystery of the response to death and its private and social effects upon the survivors. Miss Welty writes about human relationships, family origins and destiny, varieties of lostness; about personal, emotional survival in an ever-changing world; about the meaning of the past for the present, and of the present for the future. The novel is also about "vision," and the dying which occurs without it; and about inner and outer reconciliation. A true comic novel in the classical sense, *The Optimist's Daughter* is also a tragicomedy in which the laughing and the crying are essentially and realistically all mixed up together.

The impact of the novel is achieved through Miss Welty's genius for characterization and "placement"; when all is read and done, it is somehow significant that one has spent a month with the widowed,

middle-aged Laurel McKelva Hand, and returned South with her to face her father's death, the memory of his old wife (Laurel's mother) and the presence of his new, and Laurel's own loneliness. The time of the novel is seasonal (Mardi Gras), clock-striking, scheduled; it is also now; immediate, urgent. And it is the burden of the past; memory. The primary place — the little corner of a triangle which includes Chicago and New Orleans — is the small Mississippi town of "Mount Salus." Here is the particular location both of Laurel's hurting and her healing. It is home to Mount Salus that she bears her present load of grief and in which she must deal with her recurring past. It is her old Mount Salus friends who both salt her wounds and flavor her visit with their presence. And it is in Mount Salus that Laurel's

"saltiness" and "yeastiness" are restored in a final, breadboard-wielding confrontation with unfeeling absurdity in the person of Fay, Laurel's superficial young "step-mother."

The Optimist's Daughter pleases, nourishes and teaches the human spirit simultaneously, through the magic of the creative appeal of one imagination (Miss Welty's) to another (the reader's) at many different levels. The novel is for those who are looking for (in Miss Welty's own terms) inner chronology, right remembering, momentous direction, sheltering love, relocated vision, moral satisfaction, and the truth of the heart. It is for persons who wish to identify with the "interrelated family of those who . . . know the meaning of what has happened to them."

It is a prize of a novel.

JMRT SPRING WORKSHOP

The Junior Members Round Table is planning a Spring Workshop on Acquisitions for May 4, 1973 in Columbia. The main speaker will be Daniel Melcher. Fur-

ther details will be forthcoming to currently paid-up members of the association. Reserve this date — it's for everyone.